

Message Text

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71-62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 EA-07 IO-10 DODE-00 ISO-00 AF-06 CU-02

ACDA-05 BIB-01 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /108 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7929

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18045

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: EE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING DEC 15-16: INITIAL
IMPRESSIONS

1. SUMMARY. THE INITIAL IMPRESSION OF EE FOREIGN MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUE ON DEC 15-16 MEETING IS OF SCRUBBED VERSION OF RECENT SOVIET APPROACH TO CSCE FOLLOW-UP, MBFR (THERE IS NO SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO OPTION III PROPOSAL), AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT MATTERS, WITH ALMOST TOTALLY STANDARD LANGUAGE ON MIDDLE EAST AND ANGOLA. ONLY UNFAMILIAR NOTE IS CALL FOR GREATER MIDDLE EAST ROLE FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL "AND OTHER ORGANS." WE WILL BE SEEKING TO DEVELOP FURTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. EE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ENDED DEC 16 WITH COMMUNIQUE WHICH STRIKES US INITIALLY AS RATHER BLAND. WARSAW PACT LABEL WAS AVOIDED, BUT EUROPEAN SECURITY AFTER CSCE WAS APPARENTLY MAIN TOPIC, AND MEETING THUS RESEMBLES IRREGULAR WP FONMIN MEETINGS ON EUROPEAN SECURITY BEGINNING IN 1969, LAST OF WHICH PRECEDED OPENING OF MBFR PRELIMINARY TALKS IN JANUARY 1973.

3. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON EUROPEAN MATTERS APPEARS TO BE A VERSION OF RECENT SOVIET APPROACH SCRUBBED OF CONTROVERSIAL PHRASEOLOGY. IN "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS," MINISTERS "EXPRESSED SATISFACTION" THAT DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES HAS "BECOME DOMINANT TREND" OF INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE AND PREENED THEMSELVES MILDLY ON "SOCIALIST" CONTRIBUTION TO BRINGING THIS ABOUT. ON EUROPE, THE NEED TO PROCEED ALONG THE PATH AGREED AT HELSINKI WAS "EMPHASIZED," AND THIS REQUIRES "FULL IMPLEMENTATION" BY ALL STATES-PARTICIPANTS OF THE "PRINCIPLES AND UNDERSTANDINGS AS FIXED IN THE FINAL ACT" AND "TAKING EFFECTIVE MEASURES" TO GIVE "EVER MORE CONCRETE MATERIAL CONTENT" TO DETENTE PROCESS. THEY PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO WORK IN THIS DIRECTION "AND COUNT ON OTHER CSCE STATES-PARTICIPANTS' ACTING IN THE SAME FASHION."

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4. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REACTION TO OPTION III PROPOSAL IN VIENNA, VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON MBFR, AND RESULT WAS RENEWED "DETERMINATION TO MAKE UNCEASING EFFORTS FOR (ITS) REAL PROGRESS." "CONVICTION" WAS EXPRESSED THAT THESE TALKS "OUGHT TO LEAD TO REAL AND EFFECTIVE REDUCTIONS" OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS ON BASIS OF RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLE OF NO DAMAGE TO ANY STATE'S SECURITY.

5. GENERAL DISARMAMENT PORTION IS MAINLY RESTRAINED BLESSING OF SOVIET UN INITIATIVES, BUT ALSO INCLUDES CALL FOR "EFFECTIVE DISARMAMENT MEASURES" AND SUPPORT OF "ALL NEGOTIATIONS TO LIMIT THE ARMS RACE AND FOR DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING NUCLEAR, CONDUCTED BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY, INCLUDING ON A WORLD SCALE." WE SUSPECT THIS IS INTENDED TO COVER WDC AND ROMANIAN DESIDERATA WITHOUT OFFENDING CHINESE OR COMMITTING ANYONE.

6. MIDDLE EAST PORTION IS RATHER STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPOSE OF SOVIET STANCE WITHOUT QUALIFIERS WHICH SURFACE IN SOVIET-ARAB DOCUMENTS: THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT (WITH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS ONLY); THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ALONG LINES OF THE NOV 9 PROPOSAL; AND THE "APPROPRIATE" UNSC AND UNGA RESOLUTIONS. ONLY UNFAMILIAR PHRASE CONCERNS "RECOGNITION" THAT "UN--THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND ITS OTHER ORGANS" SHOULD PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE. "FIRM SUPPORT OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTIRES FOR THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA" WAS ALSO "EXPRESSED ANEW."

7. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER AS NEW INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEES' ASSESSMENTS.
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